

# Short View of Leukemia Diagnosis and Treatment in Iran

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Early diagnosis and treatment of leukemia patients remains a fundamental aim in clinical oncology, especially in developing country. Present study highlights the basic requirements of these patients in Iran. Better understanding of these issues may lead to improve the healthcare standards toward leukemia diagnosis and treatment.

**Methods:** This descriptive study included 101 specialists in hematology-oncology and pathology serving in oncology centers. The participants were then asked to fill out a standard questionnaire on the issues around diagnosis and treatment of blood malignancies.

**Results:** According to specialists, unfair distribution of facilities across the country, delayed diagnosis of disease, absence of psychological support for patients, and insufficient financial support were the main reasons of inappropriate diagnosis and treatment in leukemia patients.

**Conclusions:** Our results show that making an amendment to health policies by preparing well-equipped medical centers in all provinces, improving the morale of patients through consultation during the process of treatment, and above all, subsidizing leukemia patients' financial problems will promote the health standard regarding the leukemia diagnosis and treatment in Iran.

**KEYWORDS:** Diagnosis, Treatment, Leukemia

## INTRODUCTION

After cardiovascular diseases, cancers are the second most common cause of mortality in developed countries, and the third in underdeveloped countries. The significance of cancers as a major health problem has been revealed by the increasing incidence over the world by which the economic and psychological status of

families can be affected.<sup>1</sup> Statistically, the rate of cancers in Iran is increasing and it is much higher than standard levels.<sup>2,3</sup> According to the Iranian Ministry of Health (2007), exclusively based on the report of Pathology Center, cancers of skin, breast, stomach, colorectal, liver, hematopoietic system, esophagus, prostate, lung, brain, and the central nervous system (CNS) are the most prevalent